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Lansing

Bill Wellman
East Lansing

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann
Lansing



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

November 10, 2008

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:03 AM.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Bus Spaniola, Charles Seeley, Paul Tarr, Rose Moye, Tom Truscott, Ralph Sims, Louise Stilwill, Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, and Morris Thomas.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green and Morris Thomas.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Guests Present: Mark Harvey (State Archives)

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Introduction and election of New Board Member

John Irwin is a life time resident of the East Lansing -Lansing area. He now lives in Holt. He is a graduate of East Lansing High School and Alma College. He has been married (52 years) and is a history buff.

A motion was made and seconded to elect John Irwin to the Board; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the October 2008 Board meeting; motion passed.

President Report

President Spaniola indicated that he is still trying to get a finalized accounting from the Lansing Community College radio station for the Jeff Haas Quintet Jazz concert. Once he has that accounting, he will transmit it to the Board via an email [see subsequent November 11, 2008 email at end of these minutes].

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Treasure to write a check up to \$1,500 to the Lansing Community College radio station based on the final accounting to be submitted via email by the President; motion passed.

Paul Tarr stated that he had taken several great photographs of the evening's program. It was requested that thank you letters be sent to all the sponsors of the event. Secretary Harrison indicated that that would be taken care of once he received a listing and the addresses of all the sponsors.

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Treasurer Report

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| BALANCE | 9-1-08 through 10-31-08 | 11,018.18 | |
| DEPOSITS | | <u>+ 3,266.80</u> | |
| TOTAL | | = 14,284.98 | |
| Checks and Fees | | <u>- 1793.11</u> | |
| BALANCE | 10-031-08 | = 12,491.87 | |
| Uncashed Checks | | | |
| #1384 | Robert Love | 200.00 | |
| #1389 | Averill | 43.33 | |
| #1391 | Fayette | 33.20 | |
| #1392 | DMB | 392.23 | |
| #1393 | DMB | <u>721.57</u> | |
| Total | | 1,390.44 | <u>- 1,390.44</u> |
| AVAILABLE FUNDS | | = 11,101.43 | |

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the Treasurer's report for the period September 1 – October 31 with a notation that \$50.00 of the Available Fund balance is specifically set aside for the use of a Benevolence fund and, therefore, not available for use by the Friends for anything else. Future Treasurer reports need to reflect the existence of the Benevolence Fund; motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to pay Mr. Terry Carroll, the Bagpiper for the Veterans Day Program, \$50.00; motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to obtain a plaque for the Northwest High School Choir and to authorize up to \$100 to pay for the plaque; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

There were no new bills presented. A series of bills were presented; however, all of them had been approved previously at earlier Board meetings. No action was required.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak indicated that the state history department and, therefore the Museum, would be hurting for fund this and the next several years. By 2013, there could be close to a 30 percent cut from present funding levels. Chris stated that in order to cover the 30 percent, approximately \$600,000 would need to be raised privately by organizations such as the Michigan Historical Center Foundation and the Friends. Chris indicated that while this has been discussed in the past, it appears that the state may need to begin charging for admission to its museums. Currently, most of the Museum programs are paid through private funds rather

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than state funds. State funds pay for staff. Currently, 35 out of 70 Museum staff are eligible for retirement this coming year. It is anticipated that, once vacated, most of these positions would not be filled. There are only two primary types of potential ongoing revenue sources for the state, parking and admissions. Currently, neither of these sources are being capitalized on by the state.

In another matter, Chris indicated that the Department of Natural Resources was interested in obtaining information regarding the possibility of the Friends of the Sanilac Petroglyphs site becoming an affiliate of the Friends. Secretary Harrison indicated that he would send a copy of the Friends' Bylaws along with an email explaining the process.

Committee Reports

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* President Spaniola thanked all those Board members who help put this program together. In terms of the program's highlights, both the speaker and the choir from Jackson, Michigan's Northwest High School were great. A total 84 people attended. However, on the downside, we only had four color guards: VFW Honor Guard; Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW); Military Order of the World Wars, and 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company B. Inc (7th)... The latter three colors were carried by members of the SUVCW (The two 7th members also are members of the SUVCW). In essence, if we did not have the participation of the SUVCW members, we would have had only one color guard. It was indicated that it was imperative that the committee needs to begin working on this deficiency early in the planning stages of 2010 program. It also was indicated that although \$250 had been authorized for expenditure on newspaper advertisement, when investigated, it was found out that an advertisement would cost \$800. Given this, no advertisement was placed. Another factor affecting attendance was the fact that the Friends' newsletter also was not sent out prior to this program.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* Committee Chair Keith Harrison and President Spaniola summarized events where the Friends had been since the last meeting. President Spaniola stated that the October 19, 2009 book signing program with Lauri Perkins, author of *Wreak on the Wabash*, was a great program. Unfortunately, few people showed up to it. There was some discussion about possibly helping to fund in the future a state history marker to commemorate the topic of Ms Perkins' book.

Keith Harrison indicated that the November 1 and 2 Barnes and Nobel Book Signing Fund Raiser with Dave Dempsey had mixed results. Although the book signing took place on November 1st, the Friends' display was cancelled for two reasons. First, the store did not have any place for the display and more importantly, not enough Board members could be obtained to staff the display. The November 2nd book signing at the East Lansing store was better because the store was accommodating about the display and several Board members attended. While we currently do not know how financially successful the book signing was, we do know that it could have been considerably better had our newsletter gone out and advertized the program among our membership. In order for the Friends to do this type of program again in the future, it is imperative that it be advertized well in advance of the program since the Friends will only get credit for purchases if there are people referencing the Friends when they are

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buying books. It was suggested that in addition to our newsletter, advertizing also should take place via email to our members. Finally, it was mentioned that we need to code our brochures and newsletters in a manner such that we can tell how effective they are in terms of promoting membership and special programs.

Unfortunately, the Friends' display was not available for the November 9 Veterans program. There are no more events where the Friends' display was scheduled for 2009.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott)*. Committee Chair Charles Seeley reported that Ms. Kerry Chartkoff will not be able to accept the invitation to join the Friends Board at this time.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)*. No report.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair)*. No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman Co-chairs)*. The newsletter is close to being done. Bill Wellman indicated that next year would be the 50th anniversary of the opening of the seaway to the Great Lakes. He indicated that he would provide the committee with an article on this.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair)*. The items for this committee were addressed under the President's Report.

H. *Calendar (2010) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moyer)*. The committee indicated that work on the 2010 calendar was progressing.

Old Business

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola indicated the he was going to pursue this issue with a different (newly elected) legislator in order to see if this can finally get done.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status*. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

C. *Archives*. Mark Harvey requested to be placed on the agenda for December to discuss *Seeking Michigan.org*.

D. *Telephonic Board Attendance*. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

A. *Request from Historic Fort Wayne Committee (\$200)*

A motion was made and seconded to approve a donation of \$200 to the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition for work on the steps to Commandant's house at Historic Fort Wayne; motion passed.

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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, December 9, 2008, in Lansing.

***** Jeff Haas Friends/WLNZ Reconciliation Email**

Friends/WLNZ Jazz program

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 4:48 PM
From: "FRANCIS SPANIOLA" <busman4@verizon.net>
To: "Karen Love" <kristi.love@mail.citcomm.com>

Karen,

Please check the following recap of receipts and expenses to make certain all costs and income have been recorded accurately. I am uncertain of the exact amount of revenue taken in at the door. However, Chris indicates it is approximately \$305.00. He will verify the exact amount within the next few days and that amount will be reflected in our final figures. As you informed me last week, the wine bill of \$100.00 was paid in cash out of the ticket money that you turned in last week. You also indicated you have in your possession \$25.00 in cash from the ticket sales you handled. I show \$540.00 income less \$100.00 for the wine and less \$25.00 in your possession leaving \$415.00 in the Friends possession. It appears that our net loss will be \$351.57 or \$175.78 each. Thanks to the work of Chris Dancisak our net loss was reduced considerably as he worked to reduce our facilities charge over \$300.00. As you can see the final split will be \$1024.22 each. Therefore, if this meets with your approval I will have a check cut for you as soon as I get an accurate amount re the sales at the door. The total for WLNZ will be the 1024.22 figure less the \$25.00 you have in your possession or approximately \$1000.00. We need to know to whom the check should be written, WLNZ or LCC?

Expenses:

\$2400--Jeff Haas Quintet
\$ 100--Wine
\$ 96.57--facility charges

\$2596.57 Total expenses

Receipts:

\$400.00 -Ticket sales/Friends/Bus Spaniola
\$305.00*--Ticket sales/at door
\$540.00** Ticket sales/WLNZ
\$500.00--Board of Water and Light
\$500.00--Saturn Dealer

\$2245.00 total receipts

Net loss: \$351.57 or \$175.78 each

**Wine bill of \$100.00 paid from WLNZ ticket sales and \$25.00 in Karen's possession.

Cash remaining: \$2145.00 including \$25.00 in Karen's possession less unpaid invoice of \$96.57 for facilities charge equals \$2048.43 for division. \$1024.21 for the Friends and \$1024.22 for WLNZ less the \$25.00 already in your possession or \$999.22 for WLNZ.

Once again, please look over the above for accuracy.
Thanks,
Bus